

Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 /047 W

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R 301840Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8463

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, NZ, EGEN

SUBJECT: UNDP--NEW ZEALAND REACTION TO US OFFER TO PURCHASE
NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES

REF: (A) STATE 183186

(B) WELLINGTON 2720

1. PER REFTEL (A), MISOFF CONTACTED SADDLER WHO HAD HAD
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND REPS ON US OFFER.
NEW ZEALAND RESPONSE INDICATED THEY WERE PREPARED TO GO
ALONG WITH CONVERSION ON TWO CONDITIONS:

A. THAT UNDP IN NO WAY RELAX ITS EFFORTS TO USE
NEW ZEALAND EXPERTS OR EQUIPMENT;

B. THAT THE TIMING AND ACTUAL SALE OF NEW ZEALAND
POUNDS BE PART OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE LEADING TO SIMILAR
ACTIONS BY EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

2. SADDLER ALSO PROVIDED SOME INSIGHT INTO HOW THE
MISCONCEPTIONS REPORTED (SEE REFTEL (B)) MAY HAVE COME
ABOUT. PRIOR TO THE US OFFER TO PURCHASE NON-CONVERTIBLE
CURRENCIES, UNDP SENT THE HEAD OF THE PROJECT EXECUTION
OFFICE TO NEW ZEALAND TO LOOK INTO SOURCES OF EQUIPMENT
AND EXPERTS FOR THE UNDP PROGRAM IN THE WESTERN

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PACIFIC. THIS PROGRAM HEADQUARTERS IS NOW LOCATED IN

FIJI, IS JUST GETTING UNDERWAY, AND IN MANY RESPECTS
NEW ZEALAND (AS WELL AS AUSTRALIA) HAVE A COMPETITIVE
EDGE IN BIDDING ON GOODS AND SERVICES REQUIRED FOR
FTURE PROJECTS. THUS, THE NEW ZEALANDERS WERE GIVEN
THE IMPRESSION THAT EVENTUALLY THERE WOULD BE BETTER
PROSPECTS FOR GREATER UTILIZATION OF NEW ZEALAND GOODS
AND SERVICES.
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